

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 15, 2005

To: Greg Carpenter

From: Mercedes McLemore

Subject: Minutes from September 14, 2005 LCWSG Meeting

Roll Call:

Ann Denison, College Park Estates
Denis Craig, Island Village HOA
Janice Dahl, University Park Estates
(Chairman) Ric Trent, Naples/Save Our Bay
Tom Lockhart, Belmont Shores Mobile Estates
Thomas Marchese, University Park Estates
Hank Snapper, Spinnaker Bay
Sonia Pawluczyk, Alamitos Heights Improvement Association
Mike Pugh, College Park Estates
Dave Bates, Island Village HOA
Ann Cantrell, Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
Joan McGrath, Belmont Shores Mobile Estates
Lisa Rinaldi, Pacific Villas

City of Long Beach:

Greg Carpenter
Mercedes McLemore

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER—6:10 p.m.

Meeting Open for Public Comments—NONE

Meeting Open for Staff Comments—NONE

Chairman Ric Trent opened the meeting by announcing that it was the “beginning of the end” for the study group. The purpose of the meeting was to plan for the final report that the group will submit to Councilmember Colonna. Mr. Trent felt that there were two major things that the group needed to focus on in the meeting. The first was closing up in an authentic and valid way what the group has been doing for the last year. The second focus was planning for the community forum scheduled on October 5, 2005. He noted that the group needed to find a way to include people who may not have been included in the process up to this point. Greg Carpenter informed the group that it was time to

assign work tasks to the study group members. There was already an outline created using the typical planning approach to complete the study group tasks. At that point, Mr. Carpenter distributed a handout taken from the Planning Commissioner's Handbook. According to him, the group needed to provide the community with a vision for the area, to understand its function; what the study group was established to accomplish, and how long this would take. He then informed the group that following the community forum the group would begin a new task, creating deliverables (finished product). Mr. Carpenter also suggested that the group divide the tasks up amongst the members to be more efficient.

Mr. Trent noted that the issues of importance vary amongst the various neighborhoods represented in the study group. However, they needed to discover "core issues" and make final statements regarding these issues in the final report. Mr. Trent then stated that he was tired of seeing progress take place around the wetlands but not within them. He believes that the group has the opportunity to represent the community and tell their desires and input in some kind of summary that is helpful to the entire City Council. He also noted that there would be a section of the report for dissenting opinions and an addendum with all of the minutes, handouts, and etc. that the group accumulated throughout the year.

Hank Snapper stated that he was bothered by the fact that they are called a wetlands study group, and yet they continue to discuss Home Depot because it is not really a wetlands project. Mr. Trent responded that he believed Home Depot was the reason for the group being established in the first place. He then explained that the group is assigned to review SEADIP, which includes the wetlands and areas around it. Ultimately, the name Los Cerritos Wetlands Study Group was just convenient. Denis Craig added that he believed the Home Depot site is within a wetlands jurisdiction, not severable. Next, Mr. Snapper stated that he wanted to separate the difference between building on undeveloped lands and on changing existing land uses. Ann Denison said that any project around the wetlands affects the wetlands. Janice Dahl supported her statement, adding that bringing a more intensive use to the area affects the wetlands. Dave Bates said that he was worried that the group was too focused on land use, when they should be focusing on the quality of life for residents in the area. Mr. Trent interjected by stating that the bigger issue is, what will they suggest the City of Long Beach do to fulfill community wishes?

Mr. Carpenter suggested that at the community forum there be a presentation of the findings for each of the subgroups. Mr. Trent believed that this was a great idea, but wanted to also give the community an opportunity to provide feedback. So the most the group should do is synopsize and bullet their ideas in order to guard against seeming like "know-it-alls." Mr. Carpenter agreed to show the group a draft of the press release for this meeting early.

Next, the group decided on major components of the final recommendation/report. The group will be divided into subgroups, which will be responsible for a specific component. Mr. Trent suggested that rather than assigning issues, people should volunteer to ensure that they are passionate about the topic. The component issues (and subtopics) are as follows:

I. TRAFFIC

- Noise
- Loynes/Studebaker
 - Dangerous/Deadly conditions
- Number of Vehicles
- Aggregate effects of existing and future development proposals
- Traffic light coordination
- Accident frequency
- Bridge restrictions
- Air Quality
- Total Assessment (monetary)
- Contradiction with mitigation plans
- Load in current traffic flows for various types of vehicles (i.e. cars, trucks, emergency vehicles, etc.)
- Pedestrian concerns
- Funds currently available for infrastructure improvements

II. ENVIRONMENTAL

- Pollution
 - Air
 - Noise
 - Ground
 - Water
 - Light
 - View/Scenery
 - Contaminants
 - Flotsam (floating debris)
 - Jetsam (sinking debris)
 - Methane
 - Petroleum
- Quality of Life
 - Property values
 - Health
 - Possible cancer clusters
 - Asthma
 - Etc.
 - Safety
 - Recreation
 - Aesthetics
 - Educational Opportunities

- Impact of Humans
 - Impact on Humans
- Natural Aspect
 - Hydrology
 - Fishery
 - Wildlife
 - Birds
 - Plants
 - Human Benefits
 - Biological Cycles
 - Purchase Possibilities
 - Existing Structure
 - River Restoration
 - Potable Water Quality
 - Potable Water Source
 - Geology
 - Power Plan Input
 - Flood control impact on natural environment vs. the area as a whole

III. WETLANDS

- Definition of a wetland
- Inventory of the wetlands--% remaining, % lost
- Importance of the wetlands to our survival
- Contribution to quality of life
- Endangered species, wildlife, and habitat inventory
- Open space benefits
- Bigger wetlands vision
- Economic benefits
- Complaints re: wetlands
- City General Plan for the area
- Possibility of preserving the wetlands
- Impact of petroleum operations
- Future uses
- Open space acquisition by City, State, Conservancy, or Corps of Engineers
- Is remediation necessary?

IV. LAND USE

- Current zoning designation for the area
- Master plan for uses
- Acceptable uses according to the community—What do we want to see there?
- Current projects/Proposed projects
- Revenue opportunities for the City of Long Beach

- Related expenses
- Aesthetics
- General impact of various uses
- Circulation
 - Ingress
 - Egress
 - Accessibility
 - Emergency service access
- Risks associated with certain uses
- Liability
- Geology
 - Fault lines and activities

The following subgroups were created:

- I. Traffic
 - a. CHAIR—Sonia Pawluczyk, Alamitos Heights
 - b. Denis Craig, Island Village
 - c. Janice Dahl, University Park Estates
- II. Environmental
 - a. CHAIR—Ann Denison, College Estates
 - b. Joan McGrath, Belmont Shores Mobile Estates
 - c. Tom Lockhart, Belmont Shores Mobile Estates
- III. Wetlands
 - a. CHAIR—Lisa Rinaldi, Pacific Villas
 - b. Ann Denison, College Estates
 - c. Tom Marchese, University Park Estates
 - d. Hank Snapper, Spinnaker Bay
- IV. Land Use
 - a. CHAIR—Janice Dahl, University Park Estates
 - b. Mike Pugh, College Estates
 - c. Denis Craig, Island Village

The group agreed that each chairperson would submit a list of major points, which would be addressed in the community forum. They also agreed that the forum was intended to be for “pure public input.” The local newspapers would be invited to attend the meeting, and absentee comments would be received by the Planning Department via email and regular mail. Further discussion regarding the format of the meeting followed. Mr. Trent concluded the meeting with a brief recap of the deadlines established during the meeting.

Other Issues

- The Community Forum is October 5, 2005 at Rogers Middle School from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.
- The website for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust is
 - www.LCWland.org
 - www.LCSlandtrust.org